This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): An isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which codes for a pyruvate carboxylase enzyme at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said pyruvate carboxylase enzyme contains at least one mutation ~~in SEQ ID NO:19,~~ which desensitizes said pyruvate carboxylase enzyme to feedback inhibition by aspartic acid selected from the group consisting of:

(a) methionine at position 1 is replaced with a valine,

(b) glutamic acid at position 153 is replaced with an aspartic acid,

(c) alanine at position 182 is replaced with a serine,

(d) alanine at position 206 is replaced with a serine,

(e) histidine at position 227 is replaced with an arginine,

(f) alanine at position 452 is replaced with a glycine, and

(g) aspartic acid at position 1120 is replaced with a glutamic acid.

2. (currently amended): An isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the nucleotide sequence encoding amino acids 1 to 1157 of SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence encoded by the DNA contained in Deposit Number NRRL B-30293; and

(c) a nucleotide sequence completely complementary to any of the nucleotide sequences in ~~(a), (b) or (c)~~ (a) or (b).

3. (previously presented): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

4. (cancelled).

5. (previously presented): A vector comprising:

(a) the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or 2; and

(b) at least one marker gene.

6. (previously presented): The vector of claim 5, further comprising a functional *Corynebacterium* replication origin.

7. (previously presented): A method for producing a host cell comprising introducing the vector of claim 5 into a host cell.

8. (previously presented): A host cell comprising the vector of claim 5.

Claims 9-11. (withdrawn).

12. (previously presented): A method for replacement of a wild-type pyruvate carboxylase gene, with a feedback resistant pyruvate carboxylase gene, in a *Corynebacterium glutamicum* host cell comprising the steps of:

(a) replacing a genomic copy of said wild-type pyruvate carboxylase gene with a selectable marker gene through homologous recombination to form a first recombinant strain; and

(b) replacing said selectable marker gene of step (a) in said first recombinant strain, with said feedback resistant pyruvate carboxylase gene through homologous recombination to form a second recombinant strain;

wherein said homologous recombination in steps (a) and (b) occurs between said host cell and the vector of claim 5.

13. (previously presented): A host cell produced by the method of claim 12.

Claims 14-18. (withdrawn).

19. (currently amended): An isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule which codes for a pyruvate carboxylase enzyme at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:2 and is desensitized to feedback inhibition by aspartic acid, the nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:16 and SEQ ID NO:18.

20. (previously presented): The nucleic acid molecule of claim 19, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:11 SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:15 AND SEQ ID NO:17.

Claims 21-23. (cancelled).